CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

# Dora Vernelle Ballard

*February 12, 1924 – January 10, 2023*

# Order of Service

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

*Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary*

3801 West Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90305

Bishop Frank L. Stewart, Officiant

Damon Ray, Pianist

Processional

Prayer ..... Elder Raymond Pillars

Scriptures: Old Testament: Psalm 24 ..... Elder Raymond Pillars

New Testament: II Timothy 4:1-8

Solo ..... Damon Ray

Remarks and Reflections: Stewart Memorial Choir ..... Melody Akande

Trinity Baptist Church ..... Carol Irving

Solo ..... Damon Ray

Remarks and Reflections: Testimonial Cathedral COGIC ..... Pastor Angela Hackworth-Wilson

Resolutions

Obituary ..... Silent Reading

Video Tribute – The Life of Dora V. Ballard

Eulogy ..... Bishop Frank L. Stewart

Closing Prayer ..... Bishop Frank L. Stewart

Recessional

## *Pallbearers*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Melvin Greer | Matthew Hunn | Myron Hunn, III |
| Willie Hunn | Thomas McLurkin | Larry Strawn |

## *Interment*

Inglewood Park Cemetery

720 East Florence Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301

# Obituary

Dora Vernelle Ballard passed away on January 10, 2023, after a long and joyous life. She was born on February 12, 1924, to Clarence Clavis and Odessa (Williams) Hunn. Dora and her older brother Wesley along with younger brother Myron were raised in a close-knit family in Trinidad, Colorado, a very small town located on the border of Colorado and New Mexico. There the Hunn children attended church, read lots of books, studied music, fished, hunted, raised their dog Pete, and played school (with Dora, of course, taking the role of teacher). Although Trinidad was a small and humble town, it had an excellent educational system which afforded her and her brothers a solid academic foundation. Dora graduated in June 1942 from Trinidad High School as the valedictorian, with a straight A average.

The Hunn family moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1944, and shortly thereafter Dora enrolled at the University of Southern California where she earned her bachelor's degree, graduating magna cum laude. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as well as several other honorary organizations and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Later, she returned to USC to earn her master's degree in education. She began her 36-year career in public education in 1950 with the Los Angeles Unified School District where she served as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal, and regional director of instruction.

She met the love of her life while in graduate school at USC; Alton, too, was pursuing his graduate degree in education there. They married in November 1952 and remained married for 63 years until Alton passed away in 2015. She was the mother of two children – Clavis Franklin and Alta Elizabeth.

Dora loved her professional career and worked diligently to uphold high academic standards in the Los Angeles public school system for school children across the city. However, her avocation and passion was music. She became a church pianist at age 15 and never tired of playing the piano and organ. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles, Dora taught music at the Gray Conservatory of Music. Later, she became one of the principal musicians at Mount Olive Church of God in Christ, choir accompanist at Trinity Baptist Church, Santa Monica Community College Emeritus Gospel Choir, Choral Gifts Community Choir, Shambrey Chorale, United Methodist Male Chorus, and the Angelica Center for Arts and Music. Even at age 98, she kept a hymnal on her piano and made it a habit to play from the hymn book practically every day.

Dora Vernelle is preceded in death by her husband Alton, her parents, and her two brothers. Today, she leaves behind her son Clavis (Anita), daughter Alta, and granddaughter Jessica (Alonza) Lawrence, beloved extended family, and an abundance of dear friends.

Most important, Dora loved the Lord and lived to serve her Savior by letting her light so shine before men that they would see her good works and glorify the Father in heaven. Prayer and Bible study were her way of life, and her involvements in church ministries were numerous: pianist for the children's Sunday school and vacation Bible school, pianist and organist for the Mount Olive Stewart Memorial Choir, member of Mount Olive's Bureau of Benevolence, the Home and Foreign Missions, and many, many other such contributions.

Whatever she set her hands to do, she did with excellence as her measuring rod. She was a Proverbs 31 woman whose children and granddaughter "arise up and call her blessed." Moreover, she would truly say along with the Apostle Paul, *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* ***(Philippians 1:21)***

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of Dora V. Ballard would like to thank each and everyone
for your phone calls, visits, cards, words and deeds
of kindness, and your fervent prayers.
God has blessed us through each of you.
We appreciate your being here with us today to help us
celebrate such a wonderful life and the contributions
she poured into so many other lives.
Truly, we take comfort in the Scripture that assures us:
*"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."* ***Matthew 5:4***

*Services Entrusted To*

INGLEWOOD CEMETERY MORTUARY

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